Revisions based on ms. minutes are noted in this copy. FWH 6-8-60

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes

(REPUBLISHED)

OF THE

First

Annual Session

OF THE

Conecuh River

Baptist Association

CONVENED AND CONSTITUTED AT

Hopewell Meeting House

PIKE COUNTY, ALABAMA

Nov. 7, 8, 9, 1828

Next session of this Association convenes at Salem Church, Pike County, Alabama, on Saturday before the first Lord's Day in October, 1829.

ELDER THOMAS WALL .... Moderator
ELDER HILLSMAN HILL ..... Clerk

THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
Elon College, North Carolina

1960?

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At my request the 131st Annual Session of the Conecuh River Association authorized me to proceed at my own expense to republish the minutes of the First Annual Session of this Association. The old ledger containing these minutes is badly worn and some words indicated by (?) are more or less guessed at.

The attention of the reader is invited to the Articles of Faith set forth in that first session and a comparison with those advocated by the churches after 131 years.

A. C. CARTER, Clerk
131st Annual Session
Conecuh River Association

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CONECUH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, CONVENED AND CONSTITUTED AT HOPEWELL MEETING HOUSE, PIKE COUNTY, ALABAMA ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1828 AND CONTINUED UNTIL SUNDAY EVENING FOLLOWING

McLeMore? (McLemore)

The introductory sermon being delivered by brother Wall from 1st John 4-15 "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him and he in God."

After which the following eight churches, to wit, Bethel, Fellowship, Mount Zion, Salem, Hopewell, Providence, Good Hope, and Shilo were constituted into an Association called the Conecuh River Baptist Association by Brethren James ~~M. W. More (?)~~ and George Brown from the Alabama Baptist Association in conjunction with (Elders) ~~David~~ Wood, ~~Thomas~~ Wall, and ~~Hillsman~~ Hill on the following abstract of principles:

1. We believe in One only true and living God and that there are three persons in Him; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the scriptures of the old and new testament are the word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in mans incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe the Saints shall persevere in Grace and never finally fall away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances and that the true and only mode of Baptism is by immersion.

10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the rightous will be eternal.

11. We believe that no ministers have a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as are regularly called and come under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall open and close by prayer.

2. Those members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union shall compose Conecuh River Baptist Association.

3. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with ther number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead since the last Association.

4. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage nor to infringe upon the internal rights of any of the churches.

5. This Association shall have a moderator and clerk who shall be chosen by the members present.

6. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preserve order, explain and put questions. He may have the same right of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled. He shall not vote except the body be equally divided, in such cases he shall cast the deciding vote.

7. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a fair record of the proceedings of this Association and the minutes read and amended if necessary and signed by the moderator and clerk before the Association closes.

8. Any new church petitioning by letter and messengers for admission and shall upon examination be found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to their messengers.

9. No church shall have a right to more than two messengers. (revised the ing)

10. Every query presented shall be fully stated in writing and approbated by the majority before taken up.

11. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observ[illegible] the Association, except it be withdrawn by the person who made it with the consent of the Association.

12. Every person who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the moderator and shall not be interrupted except he depart from the subject.

13. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

14. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of public worship nor reflections cast upon the speaker.

15. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the moderator.

16. If any person shall violate these rules of decorum, he shall be subject to reproof by the moderator.

17. These rules shall be read at every Association prior to entering on business.

18. It shall be the business of this Association to provide for the general union of the churches, to keep up a correspondence with other Associations of the same faith in order that a chain of communication may be preserved among the churches.

19. This Association shall give the best advice she can and if the union of churches be broken to inquire into the cause of the difficulty and use the best endeavors to remove the same, but if it cannot be removed then she may withdraw from any church which she finds to be unsound in faith or practice until they be reclaimed.

20. To admit any of the brethren in the ministry as assistants if deemed necessary.

21. To appoint a person to take charge of the Association funds who shall receive and pay out any sums by order of the Association and shall be accountable for all monies put in his hand by the Association.

22. It shall be in the power of this Association to change or correct this Decorum at any session when a majority of the union may deem it necessary, and to adjourn to any time or place they may think proper.

FRIDAY, NOV. 7, 1828

1st Elected brother Thomas Wall, moderator and brother ~~Hillsman~~ Hill, clerk.

2nd Invited ~~visiting~~ ministering brethren, not messengers, present to a seat.

3rd Agreed to correspond with the Alabama and Bethlehem Associations, whereupon Brother Duncan was appointed to write to the Alabama and brother Hill and Todd messengers. Brother Mimms (?) was appointed to write to the Bethlehem and brethren Wall and Hewitt messengers.

4th Appointed brethren Spear, Straughan(?), Anderson, Todd, and Hewitt a committee to arrange the business of the Association.

5th Appointed brother Hill to prepare a circular letter.

6th Adjourned until Saturday ~~at~~ morning 10 o'clock.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8, 1828

7th Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the moderator.

8th The committee of arrangements reported that brethren Nolan, Larkin, and Travis occupy the stand today.

9th Received and read ~~the~~ corresponding letters,

10th Received and read the cirular [letter.]

11th Appointed brother Hill treasurer to take charge of the Association fund and also to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes. The clerk shall be allowed ten dollars for his services.

12th Agreed that our next meeting of this Association be held at Salem Church, Pike County, Alabama on Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1829.

13th Agreed that brother Hill preach the introductory sermon, in case of failure, brother Woods.

14th Appointed brother Anderson to write the circular letter and choose his subject.

15th Voted our thanks to the vicinity of Hopewell Church for their kind hospitality during this session.

16th Appointed the Friday before the first Sabbath in April next as a day of fasting and prayer to Almighty God for revival of His work among the churches.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES

		Members	Cont
Bethel	R. Anderson, F. G. Shaw, M. Burt	35	$3.00
Fellowship	A. Jackson, Isaac Duncan	35	$3.00
Mt. Zion	A. Medlock, R. Lock	16	$2.00
Salem	D. Williams (?), James Wilson	20	$2 00
Hopewell	H. Hill, W. U. Hewitt, J. Spear, Todd	47	$3.00
Providence	David Wood, L. Huchison	22	$1.50
Shilo	T. Straughan, (?) Jones	32	— ? — 2.00?
Good Hope	T. Wall, M. Taylor, D. Dozier	23	$2.00

Hillsman Hill, Clerk, Thomas Wall, Moderator

SUNDAY, NOV. 9, 1828

The stand was occupied on the Sabbath day agreeable to the order of the committee of arrangements by brethren Hill, Ellis, and Travis in order of their names and the congregation was large and attentive. We trust much good will be the result of this meeting of the Association.

Hillsman Hill, Clerk — Thomas Wall, Moderator

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